



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Snapshot of News South Wales

An economic and social snapshot of New South Wales was released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with the 84th edition of the **New South Wales Year Book**.

New South Wales Regional Director, John Struik, said the 2004 New South Wales Year Book is a complete reference for students, analysts, commentators and decision-makers.

"Information in the New South Wales Year Book is sourced from both the ABS and other organisations and provides a valuable starting point for informed decision making, research and discussion in our community," he said.

The wide ranging publication is also a useful ongoing media resource for stories and covers topics such as the environment, health, education, housing, and commerce.

The **New South Wales (NSW) Year Book** highlights:

- NSW continues to have around one-third of the Australian population.
- There were 3,944,900 registered vehicles at 31 March 2003.
- In March 2003, 95% of households recycled waste, 80% re-used waste, and less than 4% didn't recycle and/or re-use waste.
- Just over 60% of households had access to a computer at home in 2002.
- For every 1,000 people there were 5.5 marriages in 2002, equalling the lowest rate on record.
- In 2002, 84% of people considered themselves to be in good, very good or excellent health.
- The value of housing loans was \$44.3b in 2002-03, an increase of nearly 8% from \$41.1b in 2001-02.
- Personal fixed loans in 2002-03 totalled just under \$9.2b. Of this, 34% was for the purchase of motor vehicles.
- In August 2003, 76% of employed persons in NSW worked in service industries.
- During 2002-03, the countries which had the most short-term visitors to NSW were New Zealand (283,000), the United Kingdom (279,600) and the United States of America (218,400).
- The main destinations for NSW exports in 2002-03 were Japan (\$4,384m), New Zealand (\$2,060m) and the United States of America (\$1,964m).

Further details can be found in the **2004 New South Wales Year Book** (cat. no. 1300.1).

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